

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, OCON

SUBJECT: MEETING OF WGI - COMMUNICATIONS - OF THE NATO AD
HOC COMMITTEE ON EQUIPMENT INTEROPERABILITY, JANUARY 31-
FEBRUARY 4, 1977

REF. A. USNATO 6670, 032041Z DEC 76
B. USNATO 6861, 151540Z DEC 76
C. USNATO 108, 111548Z JAN 77

1. NOW THAT MINISTERS AGREED TO TAKE EARLY STEPS TOWARD
THE ADOPTION OF A COMMON TACTICAL AREA REPLACEMENT
COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM FOR THE FUTURE, OR AT LEAST SYSTEMS
DESIGNED TO COMMON SPECIFICATIONS, WE BELIEVE THIS SHOULD
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BE MADE A PRIORITY TASK FOR THE NEW CNAD TRI-SERVICE GROUP
ON COMMUNICATIONS ELECTRONICS WITH APPROPRIATE GUIDANCE
PROVIDED BY WGI. IF THIS IS AGREED, THEN WGI CAN CON-
CENTRATE ON THE COMBAT NET RADIO ISSUE AT ITS FORTH-
COMING MEETING, KEEPING ITSELF INFORMED ON PROGRESS OF THE
TSG, SO THAT ITS STATUS CAN BE NOTED BY THE AHC IN ITS
NEXT REPORT TO MINISTERS.

2. ON NEW RADIO EQUIPMENT, THE AHC RECOMMENDED AND THE MINISTERS AGREED THAT ALL NEW COMBAT NET RADIO EQUIPMENT INTRODUCED FOR USE IN THE FIELD AFTER 1985 SHOULD BE

DESIGNED TO COMMON SPECIFICATIONS, OR AT LEAST MEET COMMON STANDARDS. THE MINISTERS ALSO NOTED THAT THE AHC TASKED ITS WG ON COMMUNICATIONS TO STUDY, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE MEASURES NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE INTEROPERABILITY OF ALL NEW RADIO EQUIPMENT, AND THAT IT WILL THEN CONSIDER WHETHER THE DEVELOPMENT OF NECESSARY STANDARDS OR SPECIFICATIONS SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE WORKING GROUP OR BY THE NEW TRI-SERVICE GROUP ON COMMUNICATIONS ELECTRONICS.

3. WE BELIEVE WORKING GROUP MEETING WILL BE MOST PRODUCTIVE IF GROUP CONCENTRATES ON WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE (ESTABLISH CHARACTERISTICS FOR COMBAT NET RADIO) AND HOW SOON IT MUST BE DONE. WORKING BACKWARDS FROM HAVING EQUIPMENT THAT IS AVAILABLE TO BE FIELDDED AFTER 1985, CHARACTERISTICS MUST BE AGREED IN NEXT FEW MONTHS. AS ASG LABERGE POINTS OUT IN AC/297-D/19, "SPECIFICATIONS OF THE RADIO EQUIPMENT MUST BE KNOWN BEFORE THE END OF 1977 IF THE INTRODUCTION OF THEIR NEW NETWORKS IS NOT TO BE DELAYED." WE AGREE WITH LABERGE COMMENT.

4. THE INTEROPERABILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR COMBAT NET RADIO HAS BEEN EXPRESSED IN MANY FORUMS. WE BELIEVE GROUP SHOULD NOT WASTE TIME IN ARGUMENTS OVER DETAILS OF CONFIDENTIAL

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REQUIREMENTS BUT AT THE OUTSET OF THE MEETING SHOULD NOTE THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR COMBAT NET RADIO INTEROPERABILITY BETWEEN SERVICES AND NATIONS. GROUP CAN THEN CONCENTRATE ON ESTABLISHING CHARACTERISTICS FOR RADIO AND DEVELOPING A PROGRAM FOR AGREEING SPECIFICATIONS/ STANDARDS BEFORE END OF 1977.

3. BECAUSE OF URGENCY OF OBTAINING AGREEMENT ON SPECIFICATIONS/STANDARDS, WE FAVOR COMPLETION OF THIS EFFORT IN THE WORKING GROUP E.G. BY A GROUP OF EXPERTS OPERATING UNDER WORKING GROUP CONTROL. ONCE SPECIFICATIONS/ STANDARDS ARE AGREED, PRODUCTION AND OTHER DETAILS FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION SHOULD BE TURNED OVER TO CNAD TRI-SERVICE GROUP ON COMMUNICATIONS ELECTRONICS.

6. US REP TO MEETING IS MR. GEORGE SALTON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ACQUISITION, ODTACCS. MR. SALTON, A GS 17, WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MAJ JAMES HENRY, DA, AND COL JAMES E. WYATT, SINCGARS PROJECT MANAGER.

ALL ARE CLEARED FOR COSMIC TOP SECRET AND REQUIRE HOTEL
RESERVATIONS DURING PERIOD JANUARY 29 THROUGH FEBRUARY 4.
GROUP WILL ARRIVE VIA PA FLIGHT 100 AT 0030, JANUARY 30.
PLEASE PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR MR. SALTON DURING STAY
IN BRUSSELS.
KISSINGER

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